

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

/025 W

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R 160905Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3716

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2247

USDOC FOR CAGNE

STATE PLEASE PASS TO ALL NEA POSTS.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, SY, IZ

SUBJ: AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

1. NUMEROUS AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND OFFICIALS TRAVELING IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN GOING ON TO BAGHDAD AFTER A STOP IN DAMASCUS. POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ HAVE INTERRUPTED NORMAL AIR INTERCOURSE. EACH COUNTRY HAS CLOSED ITS AIRPORTS AND AIR SPACE TO THE AIR CARRIER OF THE OTHER. AS A RESULT, SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES AND IRAQI AIRWAYS FOR THE TIME BEING NO LONGER PROVIDE REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS.

2. EGYPTAIR STILL PROVIDES WEEKLY SATURDAY ROUND-TRIP FLIGHTS BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD. THIS CARRIER IS FREE TO TAKE ON PASSENGERS EMBARKING IN DAMASCUS FOR BAGHDAD.

3. SWISSAIR, INTERFLUG (EAST GERMAN), AND CSA (CZECHOSLOVAKIAN) ALSO MAINTAIN WEEKLY FLIGHTS BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD. HOWEVER NONE HAS TRAFFIC RIGHTS AND CANNOT NORMALLY ACCEPT PASSEN-
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TERS EMBARKING IN ONE CAPITAL AND DISEMBARKING IN

THE OTHER. THOSE WHO WISH TO BOOK PASSAGE FROM DAMASCUS TO BAGHDAD ON ONE OF THESE THREE CARRIERS MUST APPLY FOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE TO SYRIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES IN DAMASCUS. PERMISSION IS USUALLY GRANTED.

5. PASSENGERS WISHING TO TRAVEL FROM DAMASCUS TO BAGHDAD MAY FIND INDIRECT ALTERNATIVE ROUTES THROUGH AMMAN, BEIRUT OR KUWAIT. THERE IS NO AIR PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND AMMAN AND DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT; TRAVELLERS MUST GO BY TAXI. THERE IS A WEEKLY SUNDAY FLIGHT FROM AMMAN TO BAGHDAD BY ALIA (ROYAL JORDANIAN AIRLINES). MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES FLIES DAILY (EXCEPT TUESDAY) FROM BEIRUT TO BAGHDAD. THREE CARRIERS -- SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES, KUWAIT AIRWAYS, AND SAUDI AIRLINES --BETWEEN THEM MAINTAIN DAILY FLIGHTS FROM DAMASCUS TO KUWAIT, WHERE CONNECTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED TO BAGHDAD.

6. THE POLITICAL, AND THUS THE TRANSPORTATION, SITUATION REMAINS FLUID, AND TRAVELLERS ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR TRAVEL AGENTS OR AIRLINES BEFORE MAKING TRAVEL PLANS.
PELLETREAU

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NEA POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC02247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750208-0975
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750644/aaaabnqt.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD
TAGS: BTRA, SY, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006